



## Brigade begins training

Story by Spc. Thomas Keeler  
*1/34th BCT Public Affairs*

The 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division is one week into its annual training here at Camp Ripley Training Center. From Camp Ripley, Col. Eric Kerska, the commanding officer of the 1st BCT, spoke live via satellite to a Twin Cities television news program Saturday morning to provide an update on the Brigade's training. Units within the Brigade are focusing on squad-level exercises, and morale has been high, he said.

"The younger people of this generation want to serve, want to be part of something larger than themselves," said Kerska. Kerska spoke to the station using a Norsat Newslink satellite system, to replicate a live interview from overseas. The Brigade expects to use similar sophisticated equipment to keep in touch with families and communities during the overseas deployment.

Kerska announced in May that the Brigade was alerted for a possible deployment of 2,700 soldiers in 2011 in support of a troop drawdown in Iraq. 2,400 Soldiers of the 1st BCT deployed to Iraq in 2005-2007.

The 1st BCT is headquartered in Bloomington but includes Soldiers from across the state. Major units

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Photo by Spec. Thomas Keeler

Col. Eric Kerska, 1/34th Brigade Combat Team Commander, talks with Twin Cities news anchors for KSPT TV, in a live interview yesterday morning. Kerska talked about the annual training the 1/34th BCT is conducting, and why it's important. To see the entire interview, go to <http://www.kstp.com/index.shtml> and search Training talk from Camp Ripley.

## Headlines

### National

6 Americans among 10 on medical team killed in Afghanistan

### Local

Feds charge Lakeville man in \$80M Ponzi scheme

### Sports

Albert Young has eye on an expanded role in offense

## Weather

Today August 8, 2010		HI: 88°F Low: 67°F Humidity Ave. 78.5% Partly Cloudy
Tomorrow August 9, 2010		HI: 86°F Low: 67°F Humidity Ave. 72.4% 20% Chance of rain

Weather provided by Weather Underground at [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

# Minnesota elections are coming soon!



State Primary:  
August 10

State General  
Election:  
November 2

In order to vote for Minnesota's next Governor and other federal and state offices this year, you must submit an absentee

ballot application. Keep in mind, absentee ballots will only be sent to voters who have applied (or re-applied) since January 1, 2010.

Applying is easy. Simply go to: <https://minnesota.>

[overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm](https://overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm)

and follow the step-by-step instructions to apply for your absentee ballot.

Voting is easy too since your ballot can be sent to you by email.

Vote and exercise the rights that you're fighting to protect!

## I Can Do Whatever I Want

### Chaplain's Corner

CH (1LT) Kelley  
Adelsman  
HQ, 134th BSB



Everything is permissible, but not everything is helpful. Everything is permissible, but not everything builds up.

- 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

This is in the Bible. Consider the context though: Paul penned these words to followers of Jesus Christ who were eating meat sold in the market that had been an offering to gods. People who were recent believers in Jesus Christ were confused by this meat meal and unable to eat alongside their new family in Christ. Did the meat-eaters have a responsibility to pick their meat wisely? You bet.

We are free to do what we want. What we do though can positively or negatively affect others. God considers it good when we consider others spiritual growth as important as ours. Therefore when we love one another as we want to be loved (and this includes respecting, caring for, understanding, communicating,) we are indeed exercising our freedom in love.

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Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Col. Eric Kerska (far left) is briefed by Lt. Col Kevin Olson prior to a television interview from Camp Ripley, Minn., Aug. 7, 2010.

within the 1st BCT include the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry, based in Moorhead, the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry, based in Mankato, the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor, based in Brainerd, the 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry, based in Duluth, the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, based in New Ulm, the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, based in Bloomington, the 1st Brigade Support Battalion, based at Camp Ripley.

Keep up to date on the progress of the 1st BCT, the 34th ID, and other Minnesota National Guard units at [MinnesotaNationalGuard.org](http://MinnesotaNationalGuard.org) and [Facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls](https://Facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls).



Frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness. Hand washing requires only soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer — a cleanser that doesn't require water. When washing your hands, you should:

- Wet your hands with running water.
- Apply liquid, bar or powder soap.
- Lather well.
- Rub your hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds. Remember to scrub all surfaces, including the backs of your hands, wrists, between your fingers and under your fingernails.
- Rinse well.
- Dry your hands with a clean or disposable towel or air dryer.
- If possible, use your towel to turn off the faucet.

These, and other tips, can be found at [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)

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[www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls)